

Schedule of Events

- 8:00 Registration & Refreshments
- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:10 Introductions
- 9:15 Morning Plenary
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Breakout Sessions
- 12:30 Keynote Luncheon
- 1:30 Remarks
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Presentations

About MEPC

The purpose of this forum is to expand the policy discussions about Mississippi's working families. The Mississippi Economic Policy Center (MEPC) engages in rigorous, accessible and timely analysis to inform the policy debate on issues that affect the economic and social well being of working families and low-wealth Mississippians. An independent, nonpartisan initiative, MEPC is managed by the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD), a regional financial institution and community development intermediary dedicated to strengthening communities, building assets and improving lives in economically distressed areas in the Mid South.

MEPC conducts analysis in the following policy areas: Fiscal Policy (Mississippi Budget and Taxes), Income and Workforce Supports and Responsible Lending.

Who Should Come

- Policymakers
- Advocates
- Educators
- Students
- Nonprofits
- Service Providers
- Members of the public with an interest in improving the lives of Mississippians.

MEPC



ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE

*Empowering Working Families
 in a Challenging Economy*

OCTOBER 23, 2009

Empowering Working Families in a Challenging Economy

- 8:00 Registration & Refreshments
9:00 Welcome
9:10 Introductions
9:15 Opening Plenary

The current recession has challenged the bottom line for working families and state governments around the country. Dr. Phil Pepper, State Economist, will open the conference with an overview of the state's economy. Elizabeth McNichol from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities will discuss state budget deficits and responses from around the country.

Moderator: Ed Sivak, Director
Mississippi Economic Policy Center

Presenters: Phil Pepper
State Economist
Elizabeth McNichol, Senior Fellow
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

- 10:45 Break
11:00 Breakout Sessions

Supporting Working Families – Funding of State Services during the Recession

With the first round of budget cuts completed, questions remain. What is the status of funding state services at the state and local level in Mississippi? What will happen when the federal stimulus dollars run out? What options exist for the state to raise additional revenue? This session begins to answer those important questions.

Presenters: Marty Wiseman, Director
John C. Stennis Institute of Government
Antwyn Brown, Policy Analyst
Mississippi Economic Policy Center
Sara Miller, Senior Analyst
Mississippi Economic Policy Center

Empowering Working Families – Strategies for Moving Families Toward Self Sufficiency

Tens of thousands of Mississippians have lost their jobs during the recession. This session will explore how much it takes to get by in Mississippi and explore policy opportunities that support working Mississippians as they compete for higher wages.

Presenters: Michael Rowett,
Research & Communications Manager
Southern Good Faith Fund
Rebecca Dixon, Senior Analyst
Mississippi Economic Policy Center

Protecting Working Families – Building and Sustaining Wealth

Around the country, states are taking the lead in protecting their citizens from predatory lending. This session explores where Mississippi lies on that continuum and highlights policy opportunities to protect the earnings, savings, and investments of working Mississippians.

Presenters: Jennifer Johnson, Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Responsible Lending
Davetta Lee, Policy Analyst
Mississippi Economic Policy Center
Sr. Christine Blair, Home Owner Coordinator
Mercy Housing & Human Development, Inc.

12:30 Keynote Luncheon
The Honorable William F. Winter

- 1:30 Remarks
2:00 Break
2:15 Presentations

2009 Annual Policy Conference Registration

EMPOWERING WORKING FAMILIES IN A CHALLENGING ECONOMY

Jackson Marriott
200 East Amite Street
Jackson, MS 30201
Friday, October 23, 2009

Please email this form to dlee@mepconline.org
or fax to 601-944-0808 by Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Business or Organization _____

Position _____

For more information, visit www.mepconline.org